

Approved Meeting Notes

St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group Meeting

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. June 14, 2006

Teleconference Meeting to Approve Federal Legislation

(Teleconference originally scheduled for June 9, 2006 which was postponed to June 14, 2006)

Welcome and Introductions:

Members Present: Randy Reed, Matt McCann, Kevin Salsbery, Paul Tuss, Dave Peterson, Mike Barthel, Steve Page, Delores Plumage, Don Wilson, Randy Perez, Lt. Governor John Bohliger, Kay Blatter, Wes Pankratz, Bud Mavencamp

Staff Present: Larry Mires (Exec. Director), Brandi Beecher (Exec. Assistant), Judy Edwards (MT Consensus Council) Paul Azevedo (DNRC Project Coordinator) Mike Dailey (DNRC Field Coordinator) John Tubbs (DNRC), Anne Yates (DNRC)

Others: Jeanne Whiting, Jeff Jensen, Art Kleinjan, , Hal Harper, Will Hammerquist, Larry Kline, Mary Sexton, Jay Weiner, Susan Cottingham

Opening

- Lt. Governor John Bohliger thanked the St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group for their continued commitment to the St. Mary/Milk River Project and encouraged the group to compromise on issues so the Legislation can succeed. He also said Governor Schweitzer will support language that is agreed upon by SMWG consensus.
- Judy Edwards of the Montana Consensus Council explained the procedures of reviewing and discussing the legislation.

Review of Section 1

- SMWG agreed by consensus on the short title section.

Review of Section 2

- SMWG reviewed the definitions and had questions.

Review of Section 3

- SMWG reviewed the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works and had questions.

Review of Section 4

- SMWG reviewed the Emergency Response Plan and agreed by consensus.

Review of Section 5

- SMWG reviewed The Emergency Response Plan Fund and had questions.

Review of Section 6

- SMWG reviewed the Milk River Project section and had questions.

Review of Section 7

- SMWG reviewed the Blackfeet Tribe section and had questions.

Review of Section 8

- SMWG reviewed the Fort Belknap Reservation Feasibility Study and agreed by consensus.

Review of Section 9

- SMWG reviewed the Effects section and had questions.

Review of Section 10

- SMWG reviewed the Authorization of Appropriations and had questions.

SMWG Re-reviewed sections that members had questions on.

Re-Review of Section 2

- Randy Perez discussed concerns on section 2-4. Chinook and Fort Belknap Irrigation Districts are not federal projects.
- SMWG discussed concern and decided by consensus to strike Fort Belknap Irrigation District from (4).

Re-Review of Section 3

- SMWG discussed change wording of rehabilitation project, adding Milk River Joint Board of Control to the definitions and reimbursement.
- SMWG agreed by consensus on Section 3.

Re-Review of Section 5

- SMWG discussed The Emergency Response Plan Fund and approved by consensus.

Re-Review of Section 6

- SMWG discussed line 5 and removing word “project.” Also discussed line 28 and adding word “study.” Discussion on page 7 lines 37-38 regarding inclusion of Dodson Dam as a multi-use project, group decided that Dodson Dam should not be included as multi-use.
- SMWG approved Section 6 by consensus with suggested wording changes.

Re-Review of Section 7

- SMWG discussed page 8 line 34.
- SMWG agreed by consensus on Section 7.

Re-Review of Section 9

- SMWG discussed the potential of adding a provision to reopen the Act. Anne Yates explained such a provision is not necessary, because reopening will require legislation.
- SMWG discussed page 10 line 35-37. Anne Yates explained the language is included to protect Indian Water Rights Settlements.
- SMWG agreed by consensus on Section 9

Re-Review of Section 10

- SMWG discussed the cost of feasibility study and approved Section 10 by consensus.

Legislative Language Approval

- Judy Edwards asked each group for approval and each member approved the language with thumbs up or thumbs sideways, with addition of recommended changes from SMWG.

Approved Meeting Notes

- John Tubbs and Paul Azevedo will make changes and deliver to the Lt. Governor's office. The Governor's office will submit legislative language on behalf of SMWG.

Travel Approval

- Larry Mires reviewed upcoming meeting and requested travel approval to attend National Water Conference in Park City, Utah in July and National Water Conference in San Diego in November.
- SMWG approved sending Larry and one other SMWG representative to the National Water Conferences.